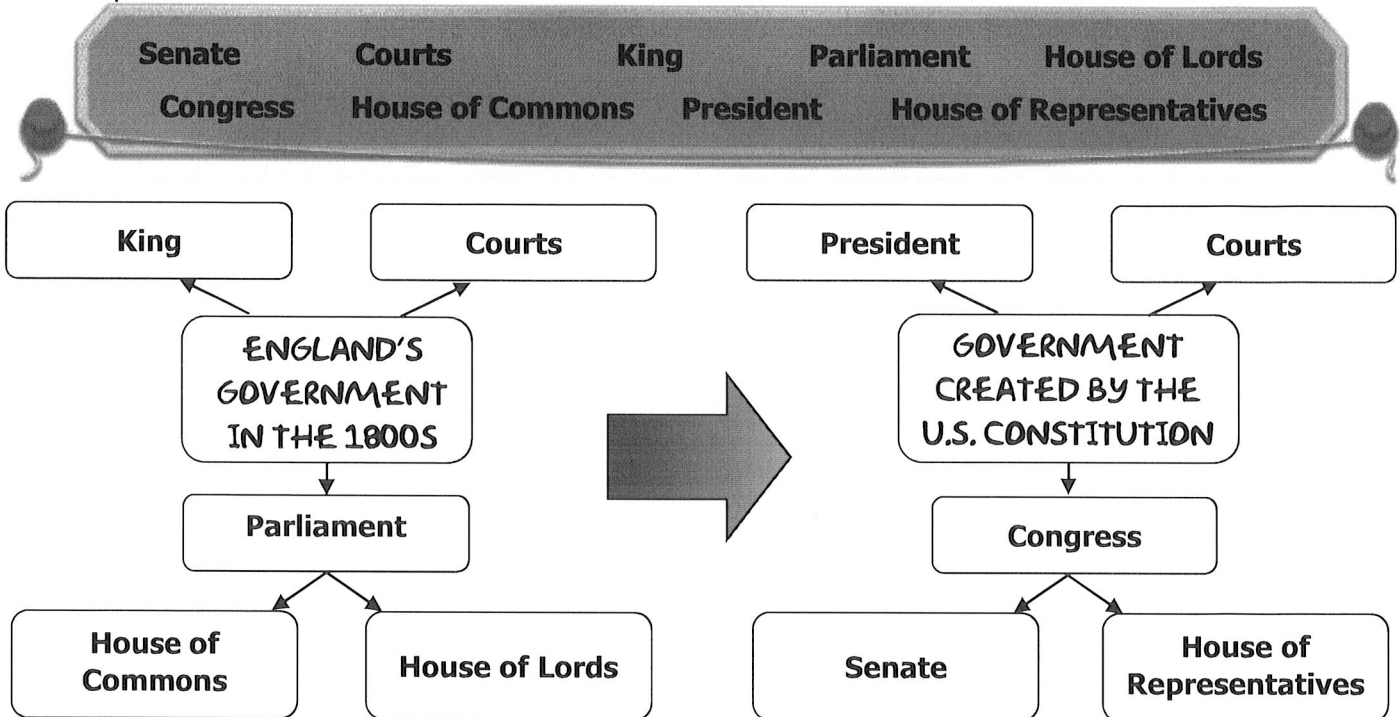


Baron de Montesquieu

TEACHER GUIDE

Roots of Our Government. Use the word bank to fill in the graphic organizers to see the similarities and differences between the US and English governments. (We gave you two to start out.) One word will show up twice!



To Serve and Protect. There are many rules out there that are meant to keep you from harm. Think of a rule important to you. Then draw it.

RULE: _____

Answers will vary.

Big Ideas. Each statement below is wrong. Cross out the incorrect parts and correct it on the line.

- Montesquieu's thinking ~~only~~ influenced people in France.
in America and all over the world.
- Montesquieu thought liberty means people can do whatever they want.
have a peace of mind and feel safe.
- Separation of powers happens when everyone follows the law.
government was divided into parts, and each part had its own purpose.
- Montesquieu believed a king should have most of the power.
share
- Checks and balances means ~~no~~ branch can limit the power of another branch.
any

William Blackstone

Name: ** *TEACHER GUIDE* **

Consult Your Blackstone! Here are some excerpts from Blackstone's *Commentaries* exactly as they looked in the 18th century books. Match each idea seen or heard in early America with an excerpt from Blackstone that describes similar ideas. Write the letter of the excerpt in the box.

SEEN OR HEARD IN EARLY AMERICA

Opening line of the U.S. Constitution, saying part of the writers' purpose was to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

Found in Blackstone:

D

Declaration of Independence, saying the colonists' rights had been violated, they had "petitioned for redress" many times, and were now claiming independence and the power to declare war.

Found in Blackstone:

C

Statement at the Constitutional Convention that laws for raising taxes should begin in the House of Representatives because the House is closest to the people, and "the people ought to hold the purse-strings."

Found in Blackstone:

E

A complaint in the Declaration of Independence that England had imposed taxes on the colonists without the colonists' consent.

Found in Blackstone:

B

The concept of "checks and balances" found in the U.S. government, where each of the three branches can stop the others from abusing their power.

Found in Blackstone:

A

BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARIES

In the 1700s, the lower-case "s" looked like an "f" except at the end of a word.

A

... there can no inconvenience be attempted by either of the three branches, but will be withstood by one of the other two; each branch being armed with a negative power, sufficient to repel any innovation which it shall think inexpedient or dangerous.

B

For no subject of England can be constrained to pay any aids or taxes, even for the defence of the realm or the support of the government, but such as are imposed by his own consent, or that of his representatives in parliament.

C

And, lastly, to vindicate these rights, when actually violated or attacked, the subjects of England are entitled, in the first place, to the regular administration and free course of justice in the courts of law; next to the right of petitioning the king and parliament for redress of grievances; and lastly to the right of having and using arms for self-preservation and defence.

D

The protection of THE LIBERTY OF BRITAIN is a duty which they owe to themselves, who enjoy it; to their ancestors, who transmitted it down; and to their posterity, who will claim at their hands this, the best birthright, and noblest inheritance of mankind.

E

FIRST, with regard to taxes: it is the antient indisputable privilege and right of the house of commons, that all grants of subsidies or parliamentary aids do begin in their house, ...

... supplies are raised upon the body of the people, and therefore it is proper that they alone should have the right of taxing themselves.

A. State of Nature. Read the excerpt from Hobbes' book *Leviathan* think about what you have already learned about Hobbes. Then complete the chart below, describing life with and without government. Check the correct boxes for each condition.

"In such condition, there is no place for industry; ... no knowledge of the face of the earth; no account of time; no arts; no letters; no society; and which is worst of all, continual fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short."
— from *Leviathan*

Without Government

- Life would be peaceful and productive.
- Everyone would have a right to everything.
- There would be a constant state of fear and danger.
- Arts and science would thrive.
- People wouldn't have spare time to make things or farm the land.
- People would constantly fight with each other.

With Government

- Rules could be made and enforced.
- The life of men would be short, poor, lonely.
- People could expect protection from a ruler.
- There would be more time to work, create, and discover.
- Power would be shared with everyone.
- People would give up some power and rights.

B. Cover Art. Sometimes you can judge a book by its cover. Look at a portion of the title page from *Leviathan* and answer the questions below. (Look closely, the big guy in the middle is made up of people!)



1. List five things you see in this image.

Answers will vary.

A king, people, sword, scepter, crown, man, town, church, houses, streets, countryside, etc.

2. Circle the item that represents monarchy, or the king.
3. Draw a square around the item or items that represent power.

4. How might this look different if Hobbes supported a democracy rather than a monarchy?

Answers will vary. No crown, no scepter, etc.